

Bulletin

February 3, 1947

Shebat 13, 5707

Sabbath Eve Service Features Jewish Music; Jacobi Speaks on "Jewish Music As I See It"

Helfman, Hebrew Arts Singers Assist Cantor, Choir

The Synagogue has prepared a special music program for the Sabbath Eve service of February 7th at 8:30 o'clock, it was announced by Harold Levin, Chairman of the Committee on Adult Education.

The service is being held in conjunction with the nationwide observance of the Jewish Music Festival, which is from February 7th to March 6th. The Synagogue choir will be assisted by a group from the Hebrew Arts Singers under the direction of Max Helfman. Isi

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FREDERICK JACOBI

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SABBATH EVE

Friday, February 7th, 8:30 o'clock

Jewish Music Festival

Frederick Jacobi will speak on
"Jewish Music As I See It"

SABBATH MORNING

Saturday, February 8th, 10:00 a.m.
Junior Congregation Service
at 10:30 a.m.

Junior League At Delmonico Sunday Afternoon, Feb. 9th

The annual Junior League Cocktail Party will take place on Sunday afternoon, February 9th, at the Hotel Delmonico. Plans have been made to accommodate three hundred and fifty people who will dance to the music of Jack Horton and his orchestra. An additional feature of the afternoon will be the drawing of raffle tickets for the twenty valuable prizes which have been donated to the Junior League. The Cocktail Party and the drawings will culminate the efforts of the Junior League to raise \$1500 for the United Jewish Appeal. In this connection, subscriptions for the dance as well as the purchase of the raffle books which have been distributed to the members of the congregation, are being sought by the young people of the Synagogue. The Junior League realizes that many of our Congregants have already made sizeable contributions to other worthy causes, but hopes you will find the means to contribute, however small, to the United Jewish Appeal through the Junior League. The Misses Hortense Levy and Isabel Rosen are co-chairmen of the affair with Marvin Cohen acting as Treasurer.

It has been announced by Dudley Greenstein, President of the Junior League, that plans for a study group under the leadership of Rabbi Kertzer have been completed. This group will meet for the first time on Tuesday evening, February 4th, when a series of discussions on Comparative Religion will be instituted.

On Friday evening, February 28th, three young members of the Congregation will speak from the pulpit at services sponsored by the Junior League.

Dinner Meeting Scheduled For Synagogue, Feb. 9th

The first Annual Congregational Dinner in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Park Avenue Synagogue will take place on Sunday evening, February 9th, at 6:30 o'clock in the Vestry of the Synagogue.

This affair is being organized by Harold Levin and Mrs. Edward Peiper. As Hon. Bernard Botein, chairman of the Board of Trustees so aptly stated in his letter to the congregants, this function is designed to "give greater scope to the fine spirit of friendship and fellowship which exists in our congregation".

The dinner which will open the evening's festivities will of necessity be limited to only 225 people, and therefore the first 225 reservations only will be accepted. The price for the dinner is \$3 per person which, considering the price of public banquets these days, is very moderate. Those who have not already made reservations should do so immediately by contacting the office of the Synagogue.

After the dinner, at 9:00 p.m. the short business meeting will be held followed by entertainment. Members of the Synagogue who can not attend the dinner are invited to the remainder of the evening's activities from 9 p.m. on. During the brief business meeting there will be brief reports by Judge Botein; Benjamin Sack, Treasurer; Harold Levin, chairman of the Committee on Adult Education; Saul Godwin, chairman of the School Board and Mrs. Edward Peiper, Sisterhood president. Rabbis Steinberg and Kertzer will also address the gathering.

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SABBATH EVE

Friday, February 14th, 8:30 o'clock

Rabbi Steinberg will speak on
"America's Closed Door and
the American Future"

SABBATH MORNING

Saturday, February 15th, 10:00 a.m.
Junior Congregation Service
at 10:30 a.m.

THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

BULLETIN

is published bi-weekly from
September to June byTHE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE
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VOL. I

No. 10

**From the Desk of
Rabbi Steinberg**

This column represents a response to a popular demand.

So many and such affectionate inquiries have been put to me by members of our Synagogue as to the welfare and professional progress of Rabbi Erwin Zimet that, a general and public answer is indicated.

Rabbi Zimet, I am delighted to report, has been doing brilliantly in his new post. Despite his recent illness, now fortunately in the past; despite, too, some months during which, for want of an apartment in Poughkeepsie, the Zimet family enacted a veritable "tale of two cities," Beth-El of Poughkeepsie has made magnificent progress under his tutelage. This I know less from Rabbi Zimet himself, who has been his own modest self in this regard as in all others, than from some of his congregants and from the splendid Synagogue Bulletin which he initiated and publishes.

In a few short months the congregation has grown steadily in membership. It has worked out new forms of divine service for itself. Like so many conservative congregations Beth-El of Poughkeepsie hesitated between alternative patterns of worship. Under Rabbi Zimet's leadership a design of public prayer generally akin to our own has been instituted. To enhance the service still further there has been established a flourishing choral group composed of members of the congregation.

As was to be expected, Rabbi Zimet has concentrated on his educational pro-

The Young Married Group

The second unit of the newly formed "Young Marrieds" group held its initial meeting at the home of Rabbi and Mrs. Milton Steinberg on Wednesday evening, January 8th. A spirited discussion led by Rabbi Steinberg and Rabbi Kertzer on the subject of Jewish veteran groups versus non-sectarian veteran organizations took place. It was decided that since we already have other sectarian veteran organizations, we must of necessity have a Jewish group as well. The best solution, in the opinion of those present, would entail membership in both a non-sectarian veterans organization, such as the American Veterans Committee, and a special interest group like the Jewish War Veterans.

The discussion came to a close and refreshments were served by Mrs. Steinberg with the assistance of Mrs. Kertzer. The members of the group renewed old friendships and made new acquaintances.

Plans were made for the next meeting to be held at the home of Rabbi and Mrs. Morris Kertzer on Wednesday evening, February 5th, at which time the book, "Earth And High Heaven" by Gwethalyn Graham, will be discussed.

Congregational Dinner

(Continued from page 1)

The remainder of the evening will be devoted to a "quiz" contest between two teams composed of opposite sexes. An interesting evening is planned and everyone should try to be at this meeting.

gram. A religious school, a junior congregation, adult classes have all been launched. Bulletins for home observance are being distributed before each festival. A vigorous Jewish cultural life has come into being. Rabbi Zimet and his congregation do not confine themselves to parochial interests only. Beth-El joins with the reform Vassar Temple in joint services on special occasions such as Balfour Day and Thanksgiving. And Rabbi Zimet, himself, speaks frequently in the general community and has, as I have learned from some of our girls who are students at Vassar, done some very fine work at the college.

This is not the whole of the program which Rabbi Zimet has initiated but it is enough to show how broadly and devotedly he is working. Which is, of course, no surprise to anyone who knew him at the Park Avenue Synagogue.

May he go "from strength to strength".

MILTON STEINBERG

Sisterhood Speaks

by Dorothy Cross

The Sisterhood sewing group, in answer to our appeal, has now received ample sewing material. However, there is a shortage of workers. We can use handsewers, machine sewers and knitters. Please help with this necessary work.

The S. O. S. Joint Distribution Committee drive, during *Hanukkah* week, yielded one hundred and fifty-five cans of food and \$56 in checks, for which six hundred and five more cans of food were purchased. The Sunday school contributed forty in addition. Mrs. Louis Greenstein is chairman for the Joint Distribution Committee supplies for S. O. S. drive.

For fun and friends, reserve the important dates of Tuesday afternoon, February 25th, for our annual Birthday Party, and Wednesday evening, March 25th, for the *Purim* Party.

Details will appear in the next issue of the BULLETIN.

Congratulations are due Mrs. Sanford Cohen, Sisterhood chairman for U.J.A., and her able committee for the superb job they did during the 1946 campaign. In a report issued by the Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York on the contributions of Manhattan Organizations, it was noted that the Sisterhood of the Park Avenue Synagogue had raised the very large sum of \$28,354. This amount far exceeded that raised by each of more than 100 other organizations listed; and was bettered by only two: New York Chapter of Hadassah (a combined total of its 9 or more member groups), and New York Section of the National Council of Jewish Women. Let's all keep up such good work!!

WILL YOU ATTEND?

Tuesday, Feb. 4th, 8:30 p.m.—Opening Session of Junior League Study Group

Sunday, Feb. 9th, 3 p.m.—Junior League Cocktail Party, Hotel Delmonico.

Sunday, Feb. 9th, 6:30 p.m.—First Annual Congregational Dinner, Synagogue Vestry.

Sunday, Feb. 9th, 9:15 p.m.—Annual Congregational Meeting, Synagogue Vestry.

Tuesday, Feb. 11th, 10:30 a.m.—Parents' Association Study Group, Synagogue Vestry.

Tuesday, Feb. 11th, 12:30 p.m.—Sisterhood Board Meeting, Synagogue Vestry.

Tuesday, Feb. 11th, 3:30 p.m.—Second Session of Junior League Study Group.

School Highlights

by Alma D. Kaplan

So animated are the discussions led by Rabbi Kertzer for parents who attend the Study Group meetings on Wednesday mornings, that his list of "points to be covered" is still held to its first few items. At the last discussion the point amplified was: "Thou shalt stress the common ground of all faiths." Everyone contributed anecdotes about her own early training, and questions were raised: "What, in our own backgrounds, is good and healthy and worthy of passing along? What on the other hand, is outmoded and harmful in this era? Realistically, what is the best preparation to offer a child?"

Those present believed that it is no longer beneficial for children to be ignorant of other faiths. There was much discussion as to the right age for this knowledge to be given to the child. Rabbi Kertzer is now conducting a course in Comparative Religion for the Confirmation class, age 13 to 14.

The study group sponsored by the Parents' Association and under the leadership of Rabbi Kertzer announces that its next meeting will be held on Wednesday morning, February 11th at 10:30.

At this early date, the Parents' Association requests a priority on your calendar for the evening of Sunday, April 20th. At that time they will offer a Card Party, Mah Jong, prizes, and refreshments—all for a dollar. Mrs. E. Gevirtz, the chairman will send you tickets and suggests that you use this method of solving the problem of a windfall of Sunday company.

Incidentally, don't throw away your manhandled decks of cards. Please send them to the Synagogue, c/o Mrs. E. Gevirtz, for use as "spares" at congregational card parties.

(After our visit to Grade 1 of several weeks ago, there was a holiday vacation and now we hope to be able to bring you to the other classes.)

The second grade includes 18 boys and girls, taught by Mrs. Philip Kieval, who finds them bright and cooperative with enough noisiness thrown in to prove them "normal."

"A little bit of a lot of things" describes the course of study. There's an easy story-book called "Bible Tales for Very Young Children" by L. Cohen, which the children read themselves. Then, there is much activity over each Jewish holiday as it occurs in the course of the year—parties, Assembly programs, symbols to make and use.

A smattering of Hebrew creeps in by way of simple blessings. The children learn the *Motzi* and, for example, the blessing over the *Shabbos Licht*.

On the lighter side, there are arts and crafts, songs and dances. At present, Grade 2 is busy perfecting its rendition of a Palestinian folk song to be offered at a song-fest in celebration of *Hamishah Asar Beshevat*.

The class elects a chairman to announce the results in Assembly of the weekly *Keren Ami* collection. At the time of our visit, David Hoexter was in charge of contributions, with Johnny Roth scheduled to take over the following Sunday.

The BULLETIN is pleased to present the following contribution from a Religious School student. Doris Wimpfheimer, 8½ years old, is inaugurating this column with her poem. The staff looks forward to receiving further similar articles or poems from the Religious School Students.

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

by DORIS WIMPFHEIMER

*God makes us happy,
We should make him happy too.
We thank our Father for the
sunlight so bright,
And the moonlight that sometimes
shines at night.
O, thank You for the birds that fly,
And for the beasts that growl and
lie.
O, thank You for the flowers that
smell so sweet.
And for the fire that keeps us so
cozy and warm with heat,
We thank You, O God, for the
things you can do for us.
Amen.*

Anniversaries

Best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hochhauser who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on Feb. 2nd; and to Dr. and Mrs. I. B. Brodsky, whose 15th wedding anniversary is on Feb. 11th.

Deaths

Condolences to Mrs. Sadie Cohen on the loss of her husband, Julius; and to Mrs. Clarence Lemle, on the passing of her brother, Maurice Gross.

The staff would like to take this opportunity to encourage the members of the congregation to submit to the BULLETIN any items of personal news which they feel they want to share with their fellow congregants.

Adult Ed Symposium on DP's; Announce Second Half of Season's Course

On February 17th, the Committee on Adult Education will sponsor its third symposium of the year on "Whither DP's?" The participants will be Mrs. Arthur Borinstein, Mrs. Ruth Mark and Robert Satter. Harold Levin, chairman of the Committee, will act as Moderator. The three participants will also serve as leaders in the discussion that will follow.

In their discussion of this, the most pressing problem facing Jews today, three possible alternatives will be reviewed by the speakers. They will emphasize the opening of the gates of Palestine; repatriation in a democratized Europe; or efforts to open the gates of the New World—North and South America and Australia.

The symposium offers to the members of the congregation the opportunity to review their own thinking on the subject, be stimulated by new ideas, and freely participate in the round of discussion.

The Committee on Adult Education Spring series will be started on Monday, February 24th, with Rabbi Simon Greenberg, Provost of the Jewish Theological Seminary, the guest lecturer. Professor Greenberg will give four lectures on the series running through March 31st. Rabbi Steinberg and Rabbi Kertzer will each give one lecture. The topic will be, "Jewish History from the Middle Ages," with each lecture being a separate entity in itself. Members are requested to mark down the dates now and come to these stimulating lectures.

Off The Beaten Track

With this issue, the BULLETIN inaugurates still another practice. From time to time, we shall devote space to a brief note about one of the less-publicized philanthropic organizations, worthy of congregational support. These groups, because of their limited resources, and the comparative scope of their efforts, are too often among the forgotten because of their own financial inability to make widespread appeals for funds.

HISTRADRUT IVRITH is currently engaged in a campaign for funds to carry on its work in the promotion of the development of Hebrew culture in America. The organization publishes the only Hebrew weekly outside of Palestine, "*Hadoar*," and engages in many other activities towards promoting an appreciation and understanding of Hebrew language and literature.

American Visitor Writes Palestinian Impressions

The following letter was received quite recently by Jo Levy of the BULLETIN staff from a young American friend who has gone to *Eretz Yisroel* for a visit, and who hopes to be able to reside there permanently. Although Miss Pill hails originally from Boston, she lived and studied in New York for some time, and made many friends among the young people at the Park Avenue Synagogue, where she used to come to worship regularly.

* * *

"I started my tour by visiting three *Poale Mizrachi kibbutzim* high in the hills near Jerusalem last *Shabbat*. They are all new, three and a half years, one year, and six weeks old. The members of the last one are no more than eighteen years old, and none shave yet, I swear. As the soil is arid and rocky they depend on summer tourists and the manufacture of household furniture for income. Monday I taxied from Jerusalem to Rehovot and visited the Agricultural Research Station and the Sieff Scientific Institute (Weizmann's laboratory). They are conducting fascinating experiments, especially in the field of cancer.

. . . On Tuesday we went to Tel-Aviv and had such a marvelous time seeing all the modern buildings, opera house, stylish shops, beautiful hotels, and the grand beach. Going back, our bus was searched, and we had to show our identification. (Shades of Germany!)

Givat Brenner is completely self-sufficient with its school, playground, post office, hospital, canning and preserving factory, furniture factory, foundry, shoemaker, besides the usual laundry, dining room, children's homes, and so forth.

An anniversary observance is being held tonight at *Givat Chaim* in memory of eight *chaverim* — one from here and seven from surrounding *kibbutzim*, who were killed by the British here one year ago. The British wanted to retaliate for the blowing-up of nearby coastal station which detected refugee ships coming into the harbor—and chose this place. They surrounded it with 20,000 soldiers; thousands of tanks were placed every few feet around the grounds. The Jews offered passive resistance but one was beaten so badly that he died. *Chaverim* from other *kibbutzim* tried to break through the British lines to aid these people, and seven were killed. Three hundred managed to join the four hundred who live here!

. . . Contrary to what I formerly believed, a *kibbutz* parent has an enormous influence on the child. There is much dif-

ference between the children of the refugees and the children of those who came here by choice. The parents of the latter have had the benefit of education (for Palestine) and take much time to teach their children in their free time — not formal education, but the exchange of ideas.

There is no central heating here, a little hot water, clothes are dowdy and expensive, food is bad and expensive in the cities, but there is so much to overcompensate for these small luxuries. It is good to be a part of a country struggling for its independence and to know that one may have a share in its upbuilding. There are so many tremendous possibilities for progress once the British get out—right now they control everything imaginable. Until we are free we cannot call it 'One World.'

—TOVA PILL

Jewish Music Service

(Continued from page 1)

dore Geller will be at the organ. Mr. Frederick Jacobi, renowned American composer and Chairman of the Judges' Committee for the National Jewish Music Council Award, will be the guest speaker. His topic will be "Jewish Music As I See It".

The Festival will be sponsored again, as in the past, by the Jewish Music Council of America. The council, which is composed of 54 national Jewish organizations, was formed by the National Jewish Welfare Board in 1945 for the purpose of promoting Jewish music in America, especially in the synagogue. Cantor Puttermann is a member of its executive board.

Composers from Russia, Germany, Italy, France, Portugal, England, Palestine, the Orient, and the United States, whose works have enriched our liturgical music, will be represented on the Synagogue program.

Mr. Jacobi is a former assistant conductor of the Metropolitan Opera and is at present an instructor of composition at the Juilliard School of Music. A distinguished figure in American music, he composed "*Ahavas Olom*" several years ago for an earlier music festival program, especially for the Park Avenue Synagogue. This composition will be performed again on February 7th in his honor.

During the Festival month, Cantor Puttermann will participate in other musical programs and concerts, and will broadcast on February 16th over Station WCBS. The time of the program will be announced in the near future.

'Driven Leaf' Translated

Rabbi Steinberg was the thrilled and surprised recipient of a two volume Hebrew translation of his novel "As A Driven Leaf," by Mordecai Neumann, a Palestinian. It seems that some eighteen months ago, Rabbi Steinberg was asked to permit the translation and did so. He stated to the BULLETIN reporter that, he view of the present difficulties there, he never expected anything to come of it.

The work, whose Hebrew title is "K'aleh Nidaf," is beautifully bound and set up, and compares favorably with some of the finest printing work done in this country. On the jacket there appears the following excerpt from the text of the novel, which we quote because of its extreme timeliness today:

"... The Romans are great administrators. But there is some stupidity in all men. It often seems to me (says the hero of the novel) that they have chosen this country on which to visit all of the folly of which they are capable. You see, we cannot tell them about the threat of revolt here. We would be betraying our fellows who, though they be hot-headed, are certainly honest in their purposes. Heaven knows, they have sufficient provocation. . . ."

Mr. Neumann wrote to Rabbi Steinberg to say that he was interned in the Rafia detention camp during the summer of 1946 by the British, along with Moshe Shertok and other Jewish Agency leaders. He stated that the only thing he had been able to take with him from his office to the detention camp was the galley proof of the book, which was used as the basis of a cultural course to all the internees.

THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

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